Leicester, March 22. 1862.

Dear friend Webb,

Passing a day or two at home, I will at least begin a letter to you, hoping that one from you is on the way to me, to let me know if you rec^d. the little parcel ab. I sent You by the hand of the lady who sailed from NewYork (whose name just now has escaped me) - also, one or two communications (with enclosures) ab. I sent by mail. I also wrote quite a long (and I fear very heavy) note to E. Wigham, desiring her to let you see it. — I shall send little thin a document obtained from the Standard office, in accordance with y^r. Son Alfred's request, showing (as well as they are able to show, wh. is not saying much) just how their foreign subscribers' accounts stand. - I think it will give y^r. Son some help in his labors of love. It aims to give the name of every European subscriber, & their address - the amount of each one's last payment, (in the case of all paying subscribers), and the time covered by the payment, when they know it; but here is just where the chief deficiency exists. They know next to nothing about it, I am sorry to say; tho' it is but a few years since you took a great deal of pains to straighten out the accounts of the British subs: to both Standard & Liberator, & brought a good many of them to a definite point - so to speak. If I might advise now, I would advise, and I would venture to empower, your son, so far as he may be able to confer with any of the

subscribers to the Standard, to agree with them,
and to decide definitely, to what date, or no. of
the paper, their subscription has paid; and I will
engage that the decision, then arrived at, by the
joint agreement of the subscriber & yourselves as
our agents in G. Britain, shall be accepted & be
binding here. This, I think, will be better than for
any of us, here, to attempt to decide that point.
Indeed, at the point at which the accounts now
stand on the Standard's books, no one here is com-
petent to decide it, or would undertake it. I know
no simpler way (as a general rule, to which some
exceptions may exist of course) than to refer the
question to each subscriber, & there, aided by any
record or memorandum you may possess, fix the
point definitely. When this is done, & so far as
done, if it cannot be done fully, I will thank you to notify me of the same,
and I will do my best to have the Standard books
made to conform. This will be a sort of de novo
beginning, and it will be their fault in New York
if the accounts are not then kept correctly. — I should
not presume to ask of you, or Alfred, so much work,
over & above all you are doing for us; but he generously
made an offer to do something of the kind, & asked
for the list. We shall feel greatly obliged to him for
anything he may be able to do in the case. — The list
sent also indicates to whom the paper goes gratui-
tously. — Of course, we cd. not call on them.

There is a great difference in the annual sum paid by different subscribers; 12/6 is almost exactly right for the ~~Liberator~~ Standard, being £2. for the regular subscription, and the other £1. being just about enough to cover pre-payment of postage here. For the Liberator, 12/6 ~~&~~ allows only £2. for the paper, and £1. for postage, while the subscription price is £2.50. Still that arrangement is perfectly satisfactory to Mr. Garrison — he decides no more. But when the annual sum sent falls below 12/6, it really is insufficient. Several subscribers send but 10/-, and some, I believe, even less. — This reminds me there is one name on your son's last account, of which I can make nothing. He simply entered — "Miss Biggs, 12/6". Who is Miss Biggs? Where does she live? What is the money for? Neither Liberator nor Standard have any such subscriber, they say. Please let me know in your next writing. I have spoken of this briefly before, I think. —

I trust that what I wrote you, & repeated, as to your letter in the Standard, was satisfactory. No one has complained of your letter to my knowledge; and no one could complain. To differ in opinion on some points is not complaint, and is no evidence as to which is right. There is not one, who would not regret to lose your letter — no one who does not wish you to continue on, — as I trust you will, whenever inclined so to do, and with the same frankness & freedom, of course, that you have always used. The Standard is now quite sure to live on until next autumn; and

we shall not let it die, while Slavery lives, if we can help it.

In one of your letter you suggested that I should pay over the money of Mrs. H. Martineau, Mrs. G. Martineau, and Mrs Turner, direct to the Treasurer, in accordance with the wish of Mrs. Chapman; - and this it was my intention to do, but before the money arrived, it appeared that Mrs. Chapman herself was paying her own money direct to the "Subscription Department", I therefore paid in the 3 above named subscriptions there, as I had doubt they would cheerfully agree to let their names stand with hers. We thought it doing very well, this year, to clear, as we did, $4000.; and the Edinburgh & Glasgow subscriptions have both arrived since, - the former of £35., the latter of £25., adding $300. We do need, as you lately said to me, an able Army leader. Gen. McClellan is an excellent disciplinarian, and perhaps a good tactician, & there is no doubt he has got his Army into excellent condition, considering it has been created out of nothing, as it were, in less than eight months, - in itself an Herculean achievement, and one which nations, who always keep on foot a considerable body of trained & educated soldiers, do sufficiently consider, or allow for the many & extreme difficulties thrown in the way of any military movements. But I fear that McClellan is not fitted for a leader. Clearly he has all his laurels, in that character, yet to win. And it would seem that the President & his Cabinet begin to distrust his abilities, in that direction by the changes they have recently made, - dividing the great army of the Potomac into four or five divisionary corps, & placing each one under the command of its own General, each of whom has a much greater range of action, if I correctly understand the matter, than before. So McClellan is relieved from his task of superintending the entire army of the Potomac, & directing its movements, and has gone into Virginia to lead one Division of the same.

One thing about the "Trent" affair in England has never been well cleared up. It seems that, promptly after its occurrence Mr. Seward sent a note to the Eng. govt., stating that they seizure had not been directed by our Govt, but was Capt. Wilkes's own act, - saying too that the Amer. Govt. was prepared to deal with & settle the question in the most friendly spirit towards England. - And that note, all knowledge of it, was suppressed & withheld, and the rage of the English press & people allowed to swell & vent itself to the uttermost. The knowledge of Mr. Seward's note would have removed a great share of the misunderstanding

Mr. Wallcut will forward to you the 11th No. of this year's Liberator, as you request. He is now putting it up.

Herewith I send you your Annual Financial Statements for the 2 years 1857 and 1858. In the former, you will see that Miss Estlin's payments, for "1857," for both Liberator and Standard, are entered; - with which Mr. Wallcut's books agree. — In the account for 1858 you will see no mention made of Miss Estlin's payments, and therefore ~~the~~ nothing appears on our books. - Looking at the latter paper just now, I observe, what I have not observed before, that there is an erasure, and I read under it "Miss Estlin, Standard, £1.5.0"; but, as you will see, it is erased, and not again repeated, nor the money counted in. I send these accounts that you may compare them with your books; — when done with, you will please return them to me.

I must just express the great pleasure I had from your 'Paris' letter to the Standard. I have reason to know it has afforded much satisfaction to many readers.

I close in great haste. 'Tis our Communion Week, and we are busy,

Truly & always Yours

S. May Jr.

(over)

P.S.

You say you think you must have sent the money of Miss Esther & Miss Lupton "in the large sum I sent last year, £25. odd". That is just what I thought, & suggested to you, & that those items would take up a portion of the balance which I have in my hands, but which you could not understand how it came to be so large. — The sum you sent was a good deal more than "£25. odd". It was £33. 5. 1 and was rec'd. by me Jan. 25. 1858. — I have received ~~nothing~~ money from you since that. — It occurs to me that you may have sent me names, two, some of your communications with Mrs. Chapman. That would not be well, as her own business occupies her whole time. —

ms. B. 1.6 v. 9. p 24